

THE MID TOWNER



BULLETIN OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF CHANDIGARH MIDTOWN : R.I. DISTT. 3080

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Club No. 15228

PROGRAMME

Vol. XXXIII No.38, March 18, 2009

"Installation of Rotaract Club of Chandigarh Midtown"

Chief Guest : Mr. G.S. Arora

M.D. Orion Electronics, Budapest, Hungary

Friday, March 20, 2009

Time: 6.30. PM

Venue : Hotel President, Sector 26, Chandigarh

The Colorful Colorless Holi!

Reported by PP Indrajeet Senguta



As one turns right on the sub-road parallel to the one dividing Sectors 33 & 32, an imposing white 3-storied structure dominates the skyline. This is the house of Ann Sandhya and PP D. P. Khandelvia, popularly addressed as "Deviji" by all. On March 11, 2009 the twin gates were wide open to welcome members of Chandigarh Midtown and their friends for the annual Holi celebration of the Club.

As one walked down the driveway, one could hear the foot-tapping beats of the dhol, mingled with gladdening sounds of laughter. Obviously the celebrations were on. At the very sight of an arrival of a guest, alert Deviji came striding out to welcome them raining a shower of petals, hugging and greeting "Holi Mubarak". Petals? Yes, petals! For this Holi, there were neither any dry or wet colors. Strange, but true.

Who thought of this delightful innovation is not known, but Deviji implemented it. And it was truly appreciated. Commented PP Col. AJS Gill, whose residence has been the venue for this celebration for years, "This is an excellent idea; saves the garden, as well as loads of water! Should be

made a mandatory feature." We all enthusiastically agree. With construction in progress at his house, he was constrained to decline holding the celebration at his residence this year. He promised to resume the practice with this innovation the next year. Thanks, Colonel!

PP B.L. Ramsisaria, Sergeant-at-Arms, is a stickler for rules. Being a regular meeting of the Club, he called the meeting to order, with President Saroj beside him, had the National Anthem sung, and adjourned the meeting catalyzing the growing revelry. Thank you Sir, for reminding us of protocol.

In the center of the beautifully laid out garden was a table with an array of delectable sweet-meats, dry fruits and cold drinks to quench thirst on an increasingly hot day. Honestly, the cans of beer were unexpected and brought smiles on the face of Bacchus lovers! How many tasted the thandai and its accompaniment is not known, but given the high degree of revelry, there must have been quite a few. And believe me, when I say that the thandai was excellent, I mean it. I haven't tasted such great thandai over the past three and a



half decades. The last was in Varanasi, a city well-known for its thandai and accompaniment. I am told that this lot was imported from Rajasthan!

By this time, PP Ajit Gulati took charge of the entertainment. The "laddu-pera" game brought out gleeful giggles among the ladies. This was won by IW President Shashi Gupta. Among the gents, IPDG Shaju won the contest. Adhir Sachdeva had brought in equipment for putting. Putting for the ladies was won by President Saroj, IW President Shashi Gupta, Ann Lalita Agarwal & Ann Shradha Sachdeva.

Fine food delights the body and soul. The food was dominantly ethnic Rajsthani! We are told that the chef was imported from Bengal. The "Dal, Baati, Churma" was an

elevating experience, more so, because Deviji was serving it personally to all, explaining how to tackle it. The aroma of the rice was different. One could smell it from afar. It heightened the flavor of the "gatte-ki-sabzi", made exclusively from chick-pea flour.

Frankly, those who missed the occasion were losers. Good Luck the next time!

The entire event was dominated by the humbleness, graciousness and hospitality of the Khandelias, not only Sandhya & Devi Prasad, but also his children. Yogesh was spotted keeping a keen eye on the requirement of snacks, replenishing them occasionally to keep it flowing. Indeed, the largeness of their hearts matches Deviji's vision. Thank you, Sandhya & Deviji, your hospitality is incomparable.



PP Rtn. T.S. Anand

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Foundation Awards 30,000th Matching Grant

More than 20 children in India with congenital heart defects will soon benefit from the 30,000th Matching Grant awarded by The Rotary Foundation.

The Foundation approved a grant of US\$15,000 in December '08 for the project, a collaboration between the Rotary clubs of Cochin Midtown, Kerala, and Sandbach, Cheshire, England. The grant will help fund surgeries to correct heart irregularities in children between the ages of three months and 18 years in southern and northern India.

The clubs have each contributed \$5,000 toward the project. Their Districts, 3201 (India) and 1050 (England), have both provided \$5,000 from their District Designated Fund, for a total of \$35,000.

The project is being coordinated through Gift of Life International, an organization supported by Rotary Clubs worldwide. It's the latest development in the ongoing efforts of the Cochin Midtown Club and District 3201 to provide open-heart surgeries to 105 children from indigent families by 2010, Rotary's 105th year.

During the past two years, clubs in District 3201 have organized four other Matching Grant projects for surgeries, and have independently funded several other surgeries as well.

Meet John Kenny, RI President Elect

John Kenny, Rotary International President Elect is scheduled to visit Chandigarh on Saturday, April 11, 2009. An event to meet and hear him on Rotary's Future Vision Plans has been scheduled the same evening at National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education & Research (NIPER), Sector 67, Mohali. Our Club, the Rotary Club of Chandigarh Midtown is hosting this meet.

We are in the process of freezing the schedule and the final programme will be intimated to you next week.

Dental Check up Camp at Sarangpur



Our Club, in collaboration with Trigon Dental, organized a Dental Check-up Camp at the Sarangpur Night School on March 9, 2009 (Monday). The camp was meticulously conducted by Dr. Gurvinder Singh from Trigon Dental, accompanied by one of his assistants. Thirty children were examined & apart from tips on dental care by the doctors, kits containing tooth-brush, paste, etc. were also distributed amongst the children.

PP Dr. Vanita Gupta & Rtn. Om Prakash were present at the camp, along with President Saroj.

Fundraiser Has Magnetic Appeal

Cars in at least five countries are sporting End Polio Now magnets in a project initiated by the Rotary Club of Washago & Area-Centennial, Ontario, Canada. Cost of the magnets, measuring 3.15 inches by 3.9 inches (8 cm. x 9.9 cm.), is C\$2 (US\$1.60) each, with free shipping anywhere in North America. The club has raised more than C\$1,400 (US\$1,115) for Rotary's US\$200 Million Challenge as of 21st January, 2009

"Originally we wanted to sell one car magnet to every Rotarian in Canada, but the idea is really catching on and we

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PP Rtn. Kesho R. Gupta



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have received orders from Rotary clubs in Germany, Switzerland, England, and the USA," says project chair Janet Stead, a member of the Washago & Area-Centennial club.

Stead came up with the idea for the project after seeing the End Polio Now lapel pin. "Most orders are coming from clubs who are ordering enough for their entire membership," she says.

Inter-Club Rotary Golf Tournament

Our Club has once again been given the responsibility by DG Rtn. Satish Saluja to host this event. We are organising this tournament on March 22, '09 at the picturesque course of Chandigarh Golf Club. Our Club's team has been winning this tournament for the last 3 years.

Besides the players from the local Clubs, we are having golfing Rotarians from Ambala, Roorkee & Shimla. I would request the Rotarians to be there to cheer up our team & join us at the fellowship & lunch at 12:30 noon. DG Rtn. Satish Saluja will be the Chief Guest.

The registration charges for the event are as under:

Golfer (single) : Rs. 450/- Golfer (couple) : Rs. 600/-
 Non-golfer (single) : Rs. 350/- Non-golfer (couple) : Rs. 550/-

Please give your consent to the undersigned or Mr. V.P. Sharma by 20th March, '09.

You could also e-mail details at hcsethi1180@yahoo.com.

PP Harish Sethi
 District Chairman - Golf
 Tel: 2700483
 Mob: 9417201180

Birthday Greetings

Rtn. Mrs. Ritu Singal
 Rtn. Rajiv Aggarwal
 Rtn. Rajneesh Ahuja
 Rtn. Anil Nagpal



March 22
 March 23
 March 23
 March 24

British, German Governments Pledge US\$ 280 million to End Polio

At the International Assembly in January, the British and German governments announced commitments of critically needed funds for the push to eradicate polio. The announcement coincided with the one made by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation about its additional US\$255 million challenge grant to Rotary International.

The United Kingdom is giving \$150 million (£100 million) and Germany is giving \$130 million (£100 million) to the Global Polio Eradication Initiative.

"This £100 million pledge by the UK government, combined with the money from our other partners, is a massive boost in the battle to rid the world of the scourge of polio," said UK International Development Secretary Douglas Alexander.

Members Bereaved

Mr. M.N. Sharma, elder brother of Past President Surinder K. Sharma, passed away on March 2, 2009, after a massive heart attack.

Mrs. Shiela Dogra, wife of the second President of Chandigarh Midtown, the Late Maj. Gen. Dr. Ravi Dogra, passed away on March 14, 2009, after prolonged suffering from Alzheimer disease. Bhog & Atim Ardas will be held on Wednesday, March 18, 2009 between 11 am to 12 noon at Sector 34 Gurudwara.

We convey our condolences to all members of the bereaved family.

Wedding Anniversary Greetings

R'ann Tavinder & Rtn. J. S. Chopra
 R'ann Dr. Munisha & Dr. Sanjay Bansal



March 24
 March 26

Punctuality Draw

Won by Secy. Rtn. Daulat Ram Aggarwal
 and Rtn. R. P. S. Gulati.



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"A child with heart disease who is born to poor parents puts an entire family of five or six persons in financial disarray," says Cochin Midtown Club President V.J. John, explaining his District's decision to make the surgeries a priority.

Through the Matching Grants program, the Foundation provides a dollar-for-dollar match for every District Designated Fund contribution to a project, and a 50-cent match for every dollar of additional contributions.

Since 1965, the Foundation has matched contributions for international service projects in 199 countries at a cost of more than \$335 million. In 2007-08 alone, the Foundation approved \$43.8 million for 2,424 Matching Grant projects in 137 countries.

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